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VOLUME 45

BILL EVANS

PLAY-A-LONG
Book & Recording Set

A New Approach To Jazz Improvisation

by Jamey Aebersold

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INTRODUCTION

Pianist Bill Evans was without question one of the most influential jazz musicians, and in the opinion of many the most influential white musician ever to play jazz. Although he composed throughout his career, his output increased in the last few years of his career when the increased harmonic richness of this final period (about 1978 to his death) was reflected in his writing as well as his playing. Compare ***Laurie***, first recorded in 1979, to ***Waltz For Debbie***, composed in 1954. The earlier piece sounds very reminiscent of a show tune, but ***Laurie*** is full of altered chords and devices unique to Evans.

Actually, we can see a lot of Evans' interest in altered chords and unusual chord movement in the earliest composition in this collection, appropriately enough titled ***Very Early***. It was written for a composition assignment when Evans was a student at Southeast Louisiana University. ***Waltz For Debbie*** came about five years later just after Evans finished a stint in the army and his niece Debby was two years old. Although the theme is usually stated in the waltz time the title implies, Evans often switched to 4/4 time for improvising, as does the rhythm section on this recording.

In his liner notes to The Bill Evans Album (Columbia C30855, OP), Fred Binkley writes that "Bill played ***Funkallero*** as a piano solo on one of his first jobs in New York," which suggests a mid-fifties composition date, even though the first recording was in August, 1962 with a quintet that included Zoot Sims. ***Peri's Scope***, named for a girlfriend, premiered on the first album by the trio that included Scott LaFaro on bass and Paul Motian on drums. ***Walkin' Up***, ***Interplay*** and ***Time Remembered*** were first recorded in 1962, but the tape of the latter sat in the can for over a decade.

Turn Out The Stars was composed a couple of days before Evans' celebrated Town Hall concert in 1966, where it was first performed as part of a tribute to his recently deceased father. It has since become one of the compositions most closely identified with the pianist. The title was suggested to Evans by Gene Lees, who wrote lyrics for the song as well as the words to ***Very Early*** and ***Waltz For Debbie***. These lyrics, incidentally, are available in a songbook from the TRO-Richmond Organization.

Laurie was named after a lady Evans was close to in the last few years of his life. The tune has an elusive quality that marks many of Evans' compositions. The most conventional pieces in this collection are ***Interplay***, one of the few blues Evans ever wrote (or played, for that matter), and ***Funkallero***, whose preponderance of ii–V–i patterns present no particular problems to an improviser. ***Waltz For Debbie*** is within the mainstream of the popular song, but the rest of the compositions in this collection present some unique challenges and give us some insight into the art of one of the most creative musicians ever to play and compose jazz.

I would like to thank the following for their assistance in the preparation of these notes: Hanns Petrik, whose biography of Evans has recently been published in Germany; Ron Nethercutt of the Bill Evans Library at Southeastern Louisiana University; and I would like to acknowledge the value of Peter Larsen's Turn On The Stars, an out-of-print discography of Evans' recordings.

Phil Bailey, 1989

DISCOGRAPHY

NOTE: Where LP and CD are available, LP number is given first; CD number follows the slash. In most cases, only US release numbers in print a presstime are given. More than one number within a set of parentheses indicates availability of the same take on more than one album. An asterisk (*) indicates first recording. OP signifies out-of-print recordings at presstime; some may be in print in some countries, possibly with another number.

Funkallero. First recorded 8/21/62 but apparently written about seven years earlier.
D. Benoit (GRP CD GRD-9595)
B. Evans Quintet (*Milestones LP M-47066; Riverside R-018/RCD-018-2)
B. Evans/S. Getz (Verve 2-2510/833 802-2)
B. Evans Trio (Columbia LP C 30855; CG 33672; both OP)
M. Wofford Quartet (Trend CD TRCD-552)

Interplay. First recorded 7/17/62.
B. Evans Quintet (*Milestone LP M-47066; Riverside OJC-308/OJCCD-308-2; R-018/RCD-018-2)

Laurie. First recorded 8/79.
B. Evans Quintet (*Warner Bros. LP HS 3411)
B. Evans Trio (Elektra/Musician LP 1-60311-D) (West Wind [Germany] 0022/WW 0022)
A. LaVerne Trio (DMP CD CD-449)

Peri's Scope. First recorded 12/28/59.
G. Beck Quintet (MPS [Germany] LP 0068 249)
B. Evans Trio (*Riverside OJC-088/OJCCD-088-2; R-018-2) (CTI LP 6004) (France's Concert FC/FCD-125)
B. Evans Quintet (Warner Bros. LP HS 3411)
J. Raney Quartet (Criss Cross LP 1001)

Time Remembered. First recorded 8/21/62.
C. Corea (Palo Alto LP PA 8028-2; OP)
B. Evans Quintet (*Milestone LP M-47066; Riverside R/RCD-018)
B. Evans with C/ Ogerman (Verve 821 983-1/-2)
B. Evans Trio (Milestone M/MCD-9164) (France's Concert FC/FCD-114) (Fantasy LP F-9501; Fantasy CD FCD-1012-2)
A. Johnson/J. Grauer (ITI CD 30214-2)
B. Kessel (Contemporary LP 7603)
Kronos String Quartet (Landmark LLP-1510/LCD-1510-2)
P. Woods (Seabreeze LP 2008)

Turn Out The Stars. First recorded 2/21/66 as part of "Solo in Memory of his Father".
D. Benoit/E. Remler (GRP CD GRD-9595)
B. Evans (solo) (*Verve CD 831 271-2)
B. Evans/J. Hall (Verve CD 833 771-2)
B. Evans Trio (Verve LP VE 2-2545) (Charly CD 25) (France's Concert FC/FCD 107) (Fantasy LP F-9501; CD FCD-1012-2) (Alfa Jazz CD 51 R2-32/33 [Japan])
C. Fischer (Discovery DSCD-934)
Kronos String Quartet/J. Hall (Landmark LLP-1510/LCD-1510-2)
A. LaVerne/J. Abercrombie (DMP CD CD-449)

Very Early. First recorded 5/29/62 but composed in 1948 or 1949.
B. Evans Trio (*Riverside R-018/RCD-018-2; Milestone LP M-47046) (Verve LP VE 2-2545) (Cahrly CD 25) (CTI LP 6004) (France's Concert FC/FCD-114) (Fantasy LP F-9608; CD FCD-012-2)
B. Evans/Nationa Jazz Ens. (Chiaroscuro LP CR 140; OP)
S. Getz (Concord CCJ-188/CCD-4188)
E. Gomez (Columbia CD CK-44214)
Kronos String Quartet/E. Gomez (Landmark LLP-1510/LCD-1510-2)
C. Lloyd (Elektra/Musician LP E1-60220)
J. McLaughlin Group (Warner LP 3619)
M. Petrucciani Trio (Riviera LP RVR 1)
P. Woods (Palo Alto LP 8084; OP)

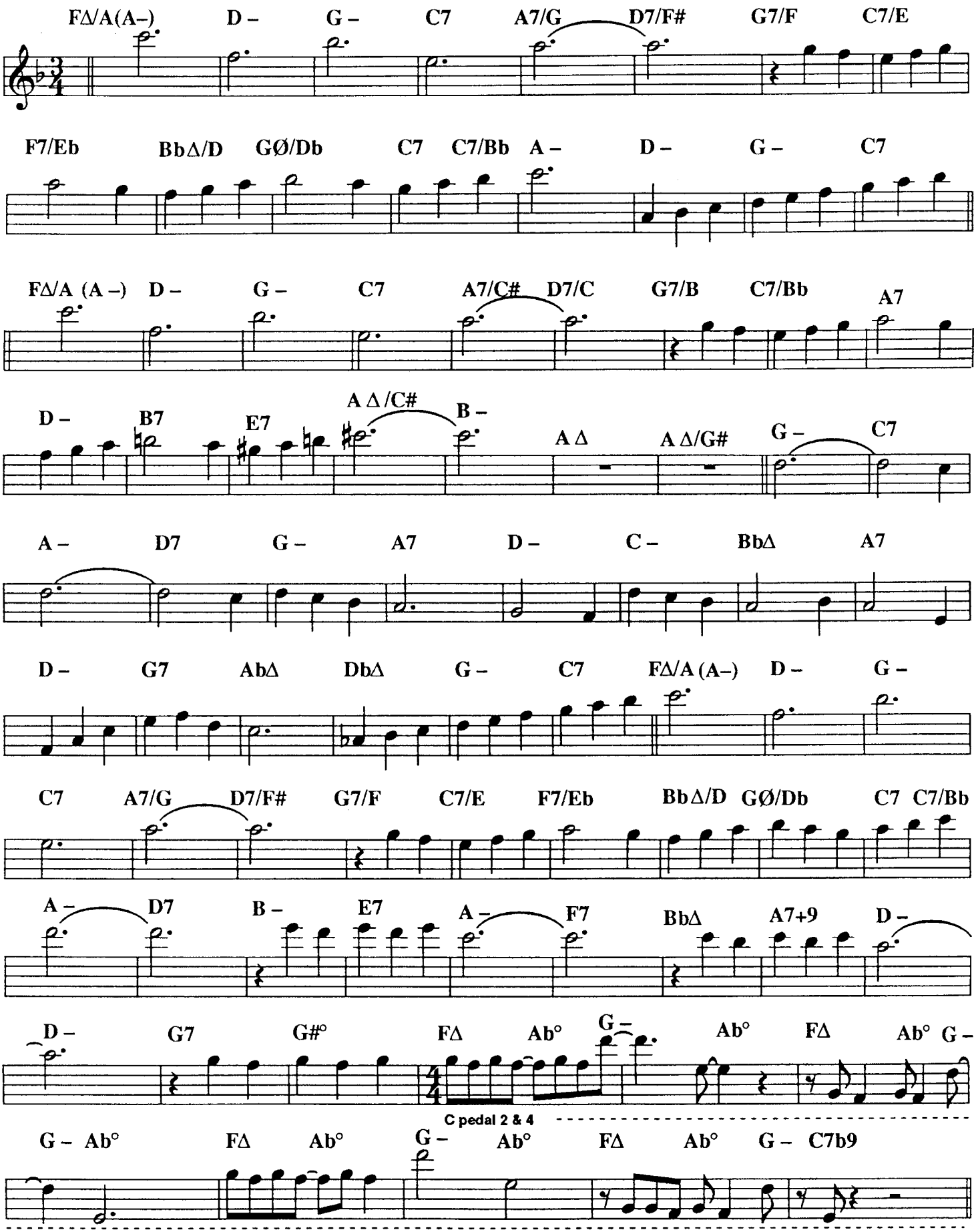
Walkin' Up. First recorded 5/29/62.
W. Bernhardt (DMP CD CD-468)
B. Evans Trio (*Milestone LP-M-47046; Riverside R-018-2) (Verve CD 827 844-2)
Kronos String Quartet/J. Hall (Landmark LLP-1510/LCD-1510-2)
J. Pass (Blue Note LP LT-01053; Pacific Jazz LP PJ-73; both OP)

Waltz For Debbie. First recorded 9/27/56, but composed in 1954.
C. Adderley/B. Evans (Riverside OJC-105/OJCCD-105-2; R-018/RCD-018-2; Milestone LP M-47053)
D. Bell (Concord LP CCJ-206)
T. Bennett/B. Evans (Fantasy LP F-9489; CD FCD-012-2)
D. Erney/R. Eschete (Discovery LP 881)
B. Evans (solo) (*Riverside OJC-025/OJCCD-025-2; R-018/RCD-018-2; Milestone LP M-47063)
B. Evans Trio (Riverside OJC-210; OJCCD-210-2; R-018/RCD-018-2; CD FCD-60-017; Milestone LP M-47002) (Milestone M-9164/MCD-9164-2) (Columbia LP C 30855; CG 33672; both OP) (France's Concert FC/FCD-107) (France's Concert FC/FCD-125) (Fantasu CD FCD-018-2) (West Wind 0022/WW 0022 [Germany])
J. Hartman (Impulse LP AS-74; OP)
A. Jamal (WWJ LP 21021)
E. Klugh (Blue Note LP LN-10163)
Kronos String Quartet/E. Gomez (Landmark LLP-1510-2)
A. LaVerne (DMP CD CD-463)
G. Lees/R. Kellaway (Cho. LP CRS-6832)
M. Murphy (Muse LP 5215)
D. Peterson (Pablo LP 2640-101) (Verve LP 833 552-1)
Quire (wordless vocal transcription of Evans recording) (RCA LP BGL1-1700; OP)
D. Sebesky (Crescendo LP 2164)
G. Shearing (Palo Alto LP 8028)

Waltz For Debby

PLAY 4 CHORUSES ♩= (3/4 168) (4/4 112)

Music by Bill Evans



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Waltz For Debby

SOLOS

A – D – G – C7 A7 D7 G7 C7

F7 BbΔ GØ C7 A – D – G – C7 A – D –

G – C7 A7 D7 G7 C7 A7 D – B7 E7

AΔ AΔ G – C7 A – D7

G – A7 D – C – BbΔ A7 D – G7 AbΔ DbΔ

G – C7 A – D – G – C7 A7 D7 G7 C7

F7 BbΔ GØ C7 A – D7 B – E7

A – F7 BbΔ A7+9 D – G7 Ab° A – Ab°

G – C7 FΔ D – G – C7 A–/C Ab°/C G–/C Ab°/C

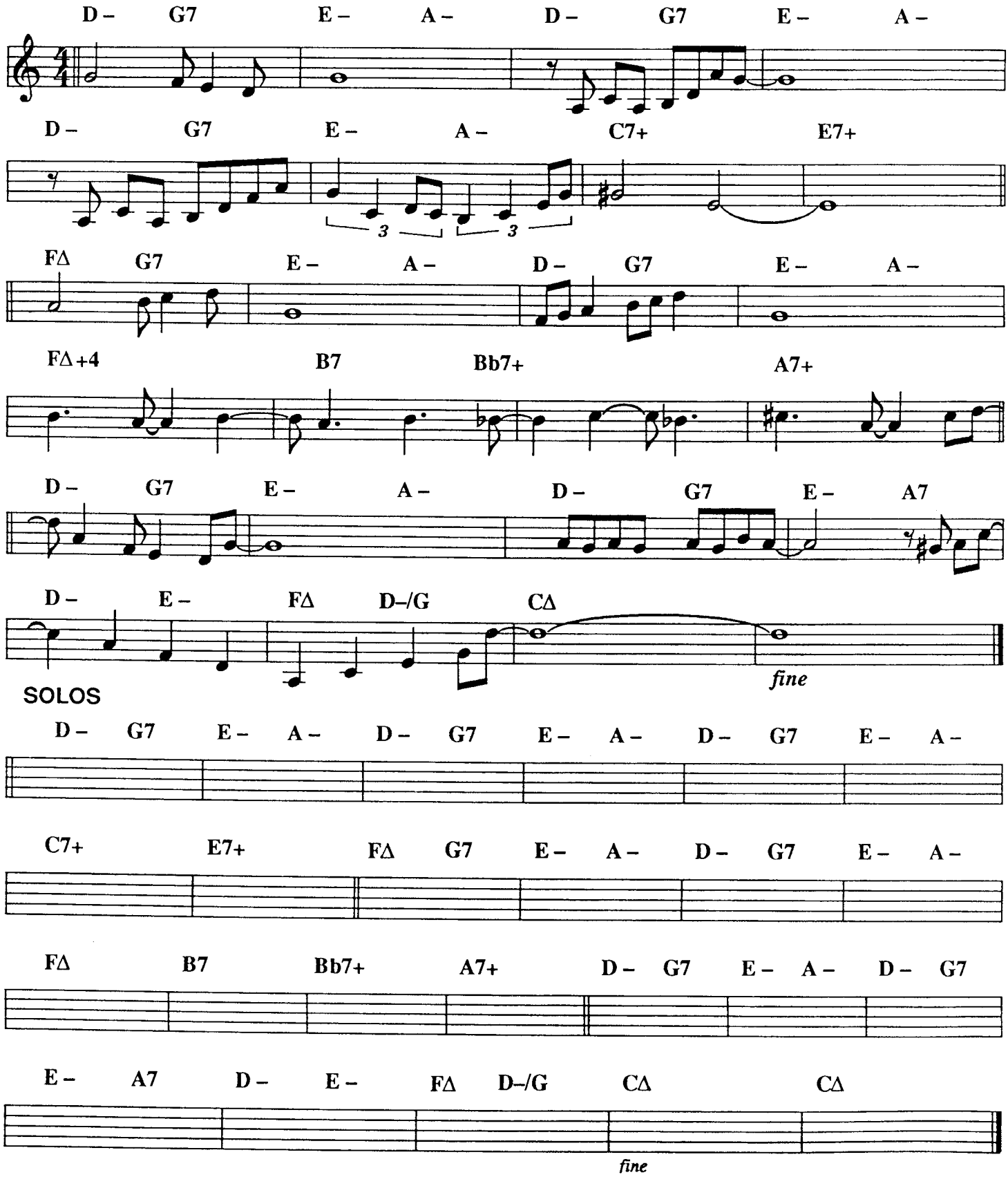
A–/C Ab°/C G–/C C7b9 GbΔ FΔ

Ritard

Peri's Scope

PLAY 8 CHORUSES ♩= 126

Music by Bill Evans



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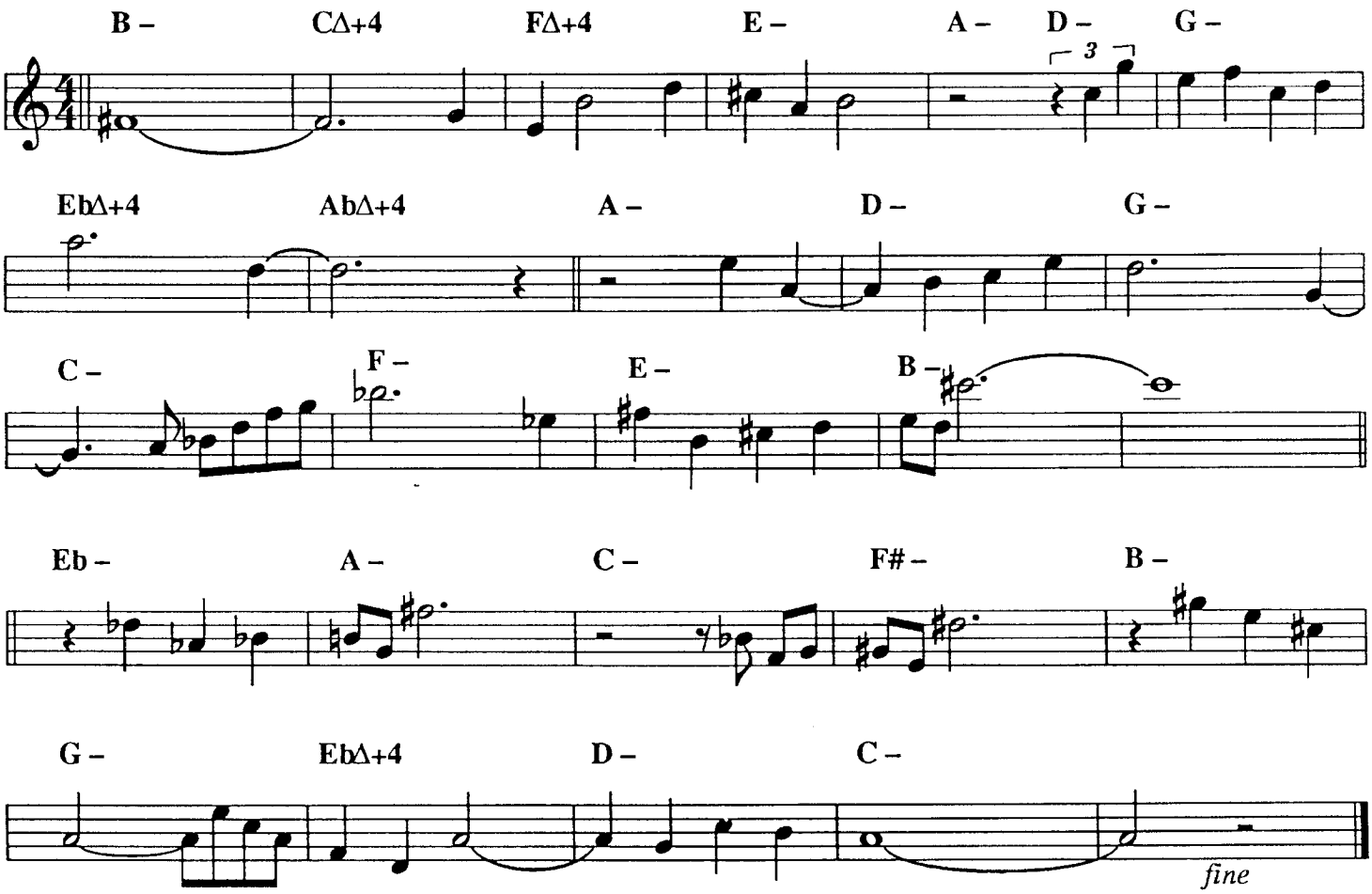
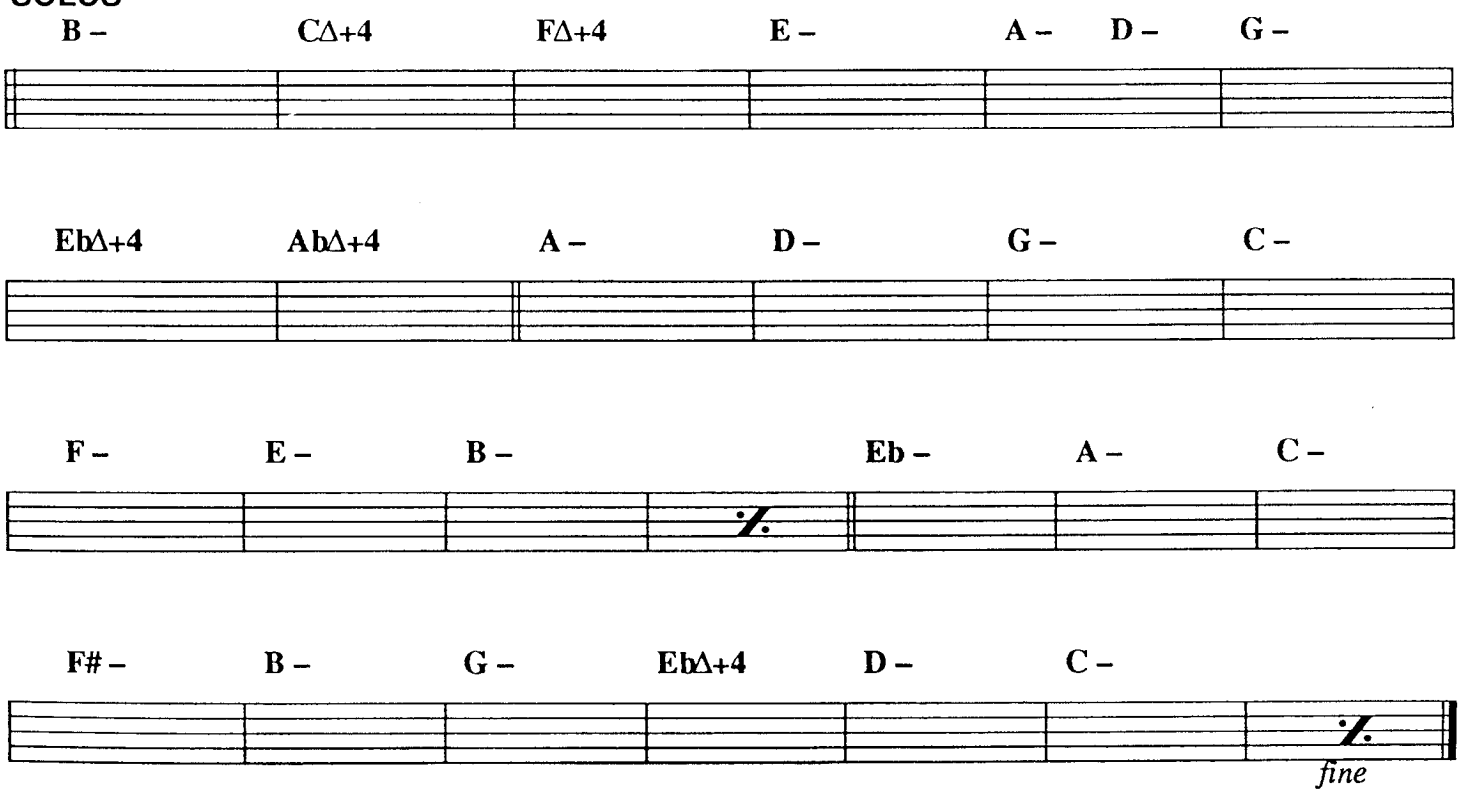
Time Remembered

PLAY 6 CHORUSES ♩= 108

Music by Bill Evans



SOLOS



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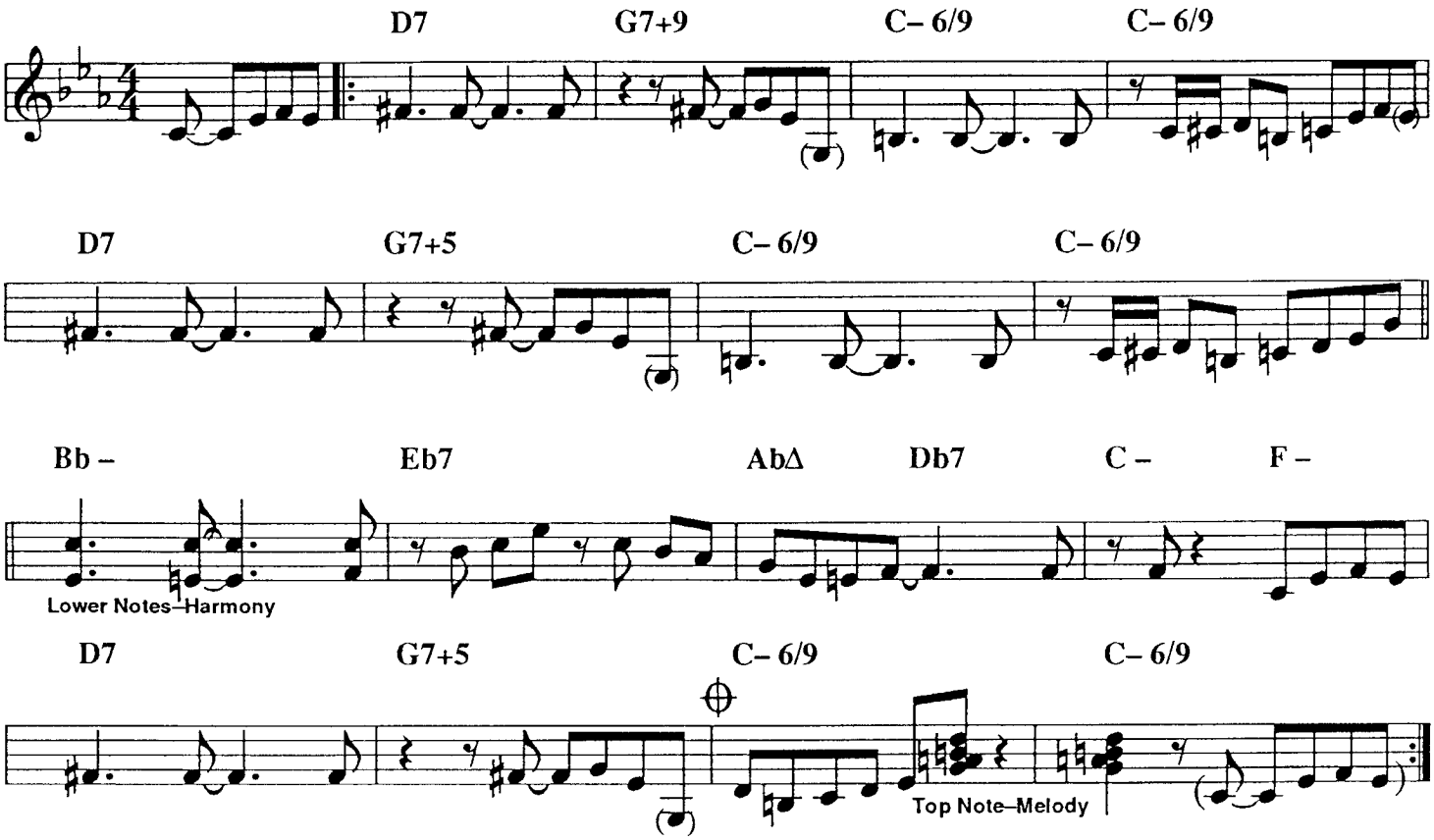
Funkallero

PLAY 10 CHORUSES ♩= 116

Music by Bill Evans



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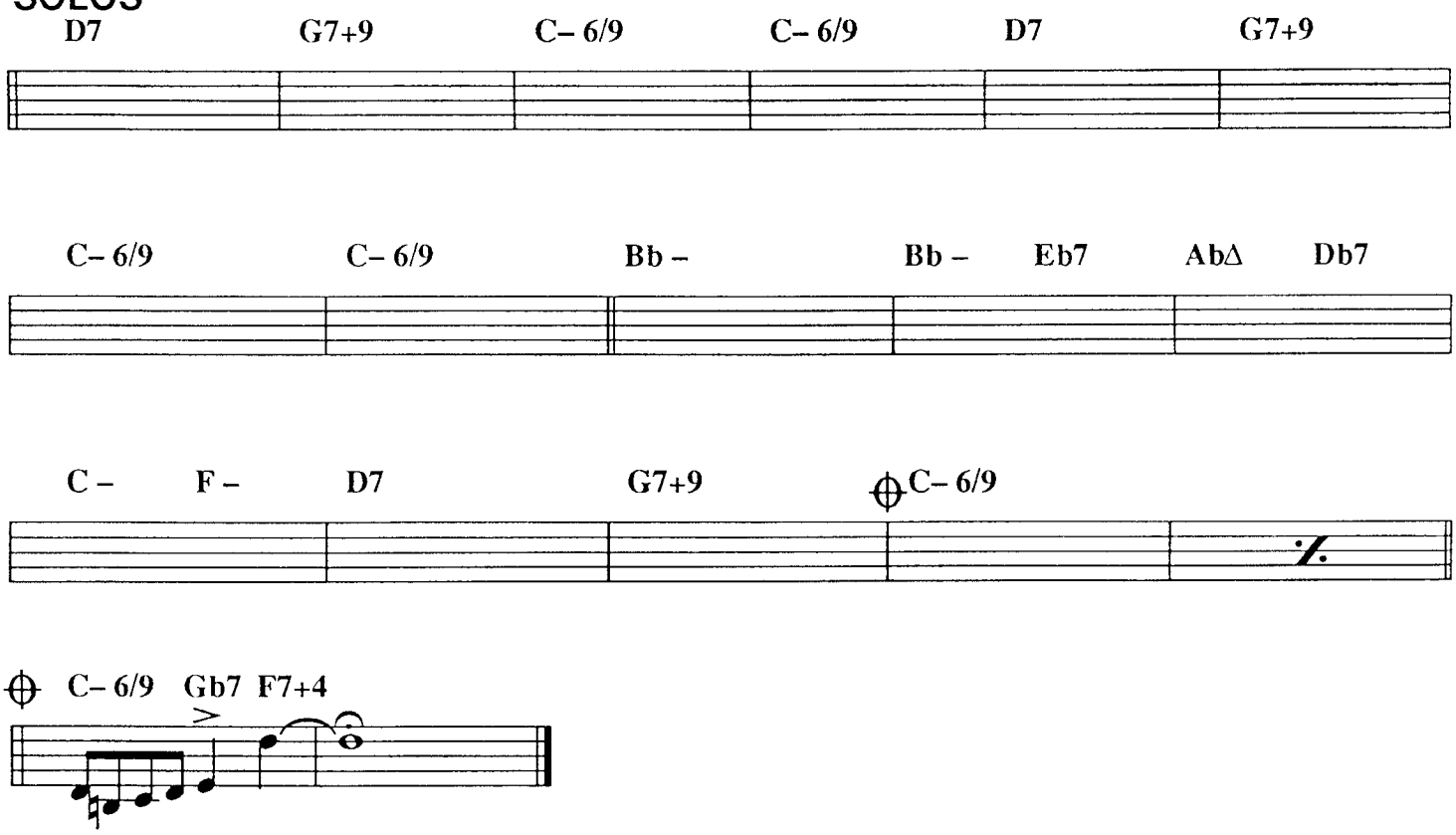

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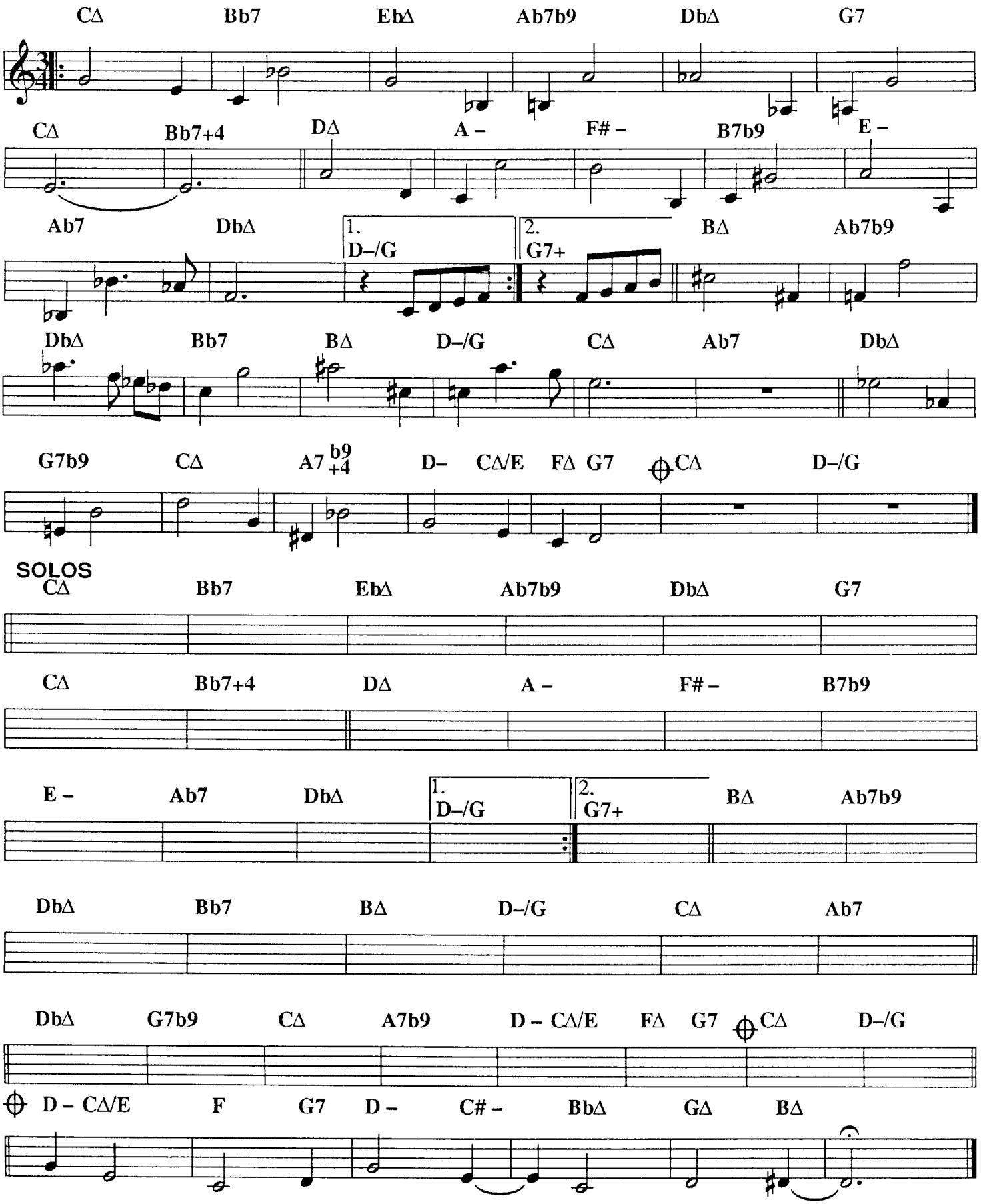
Very Early

PLAY 5 CHORUSES ♩= 84

Music by Bill Evans



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Interplay

PLAY 10 CHORUSES ♩= 108

Music by Bill Evans

Minor Blues

F – Bb – F – F7+9 Bb –

Bb – F – Ab7 GØ (C7+9)

C7+9 F – DØ DbΔ GbΔ

F – Bb – F – F7+9

Bb – Bb – F – Ab7

GØ C7+9 F – DØ DbΔ GbΔ F –

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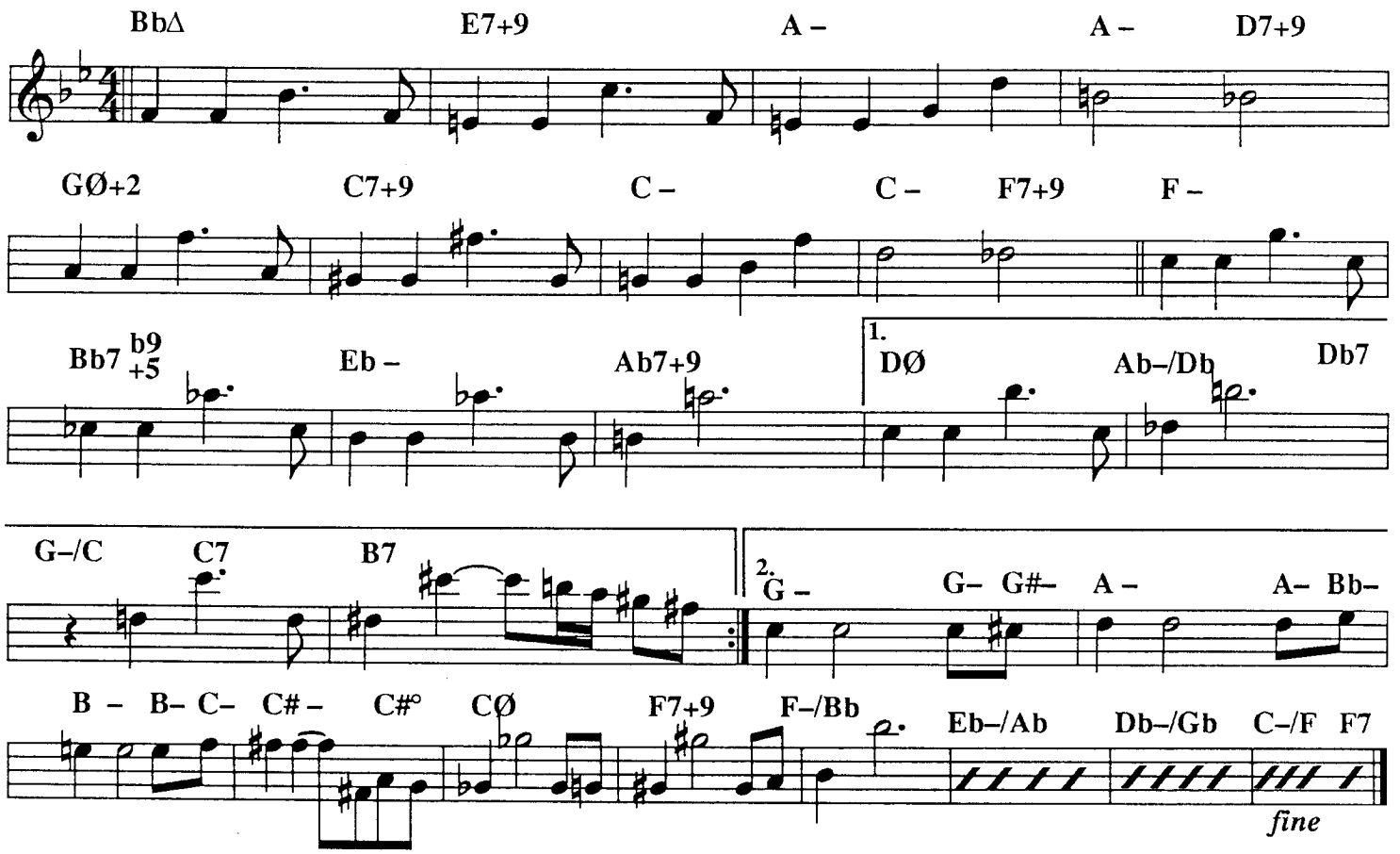
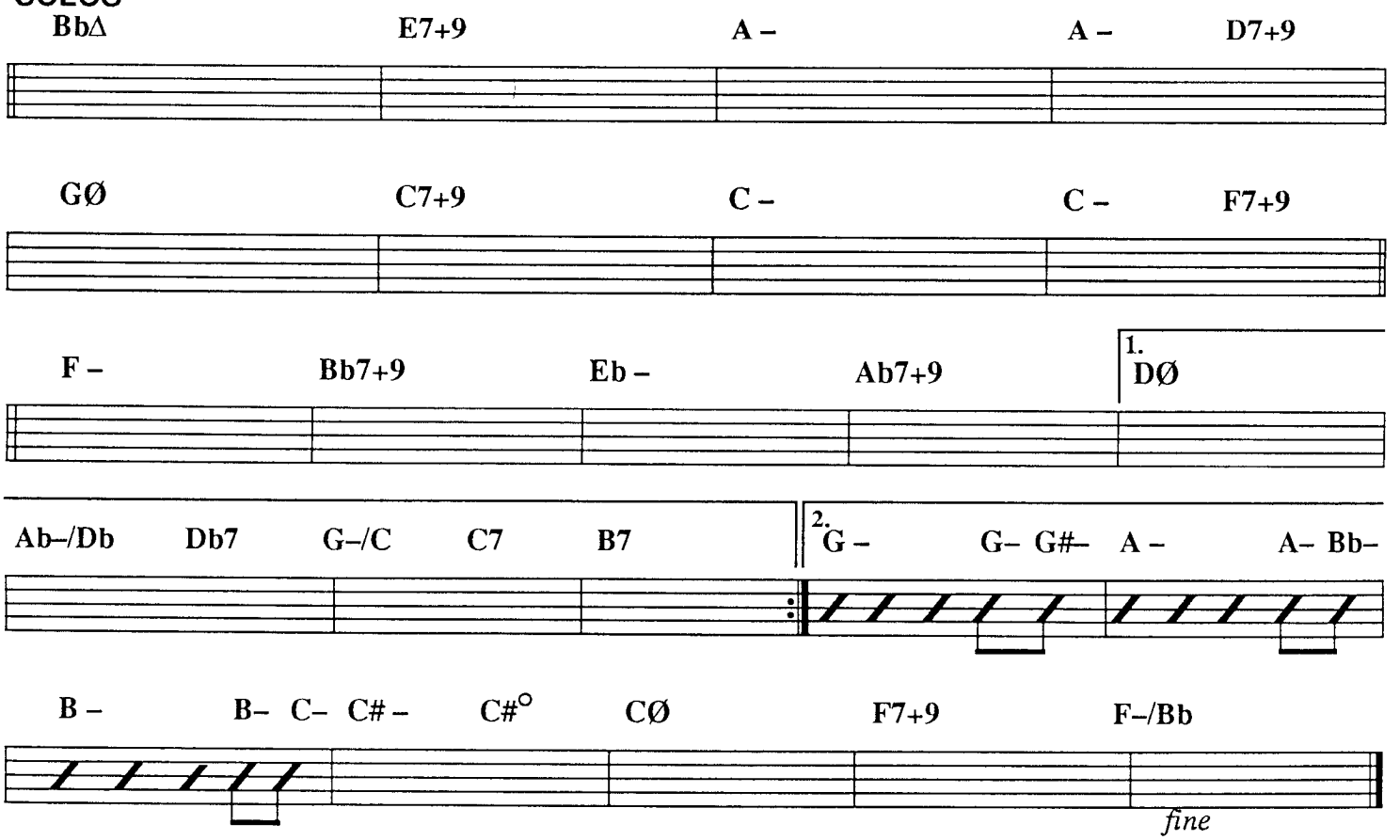
Laurie

PLAY 2 CHORUSES ♩= 66

Music by Bill Evans



SOLOS



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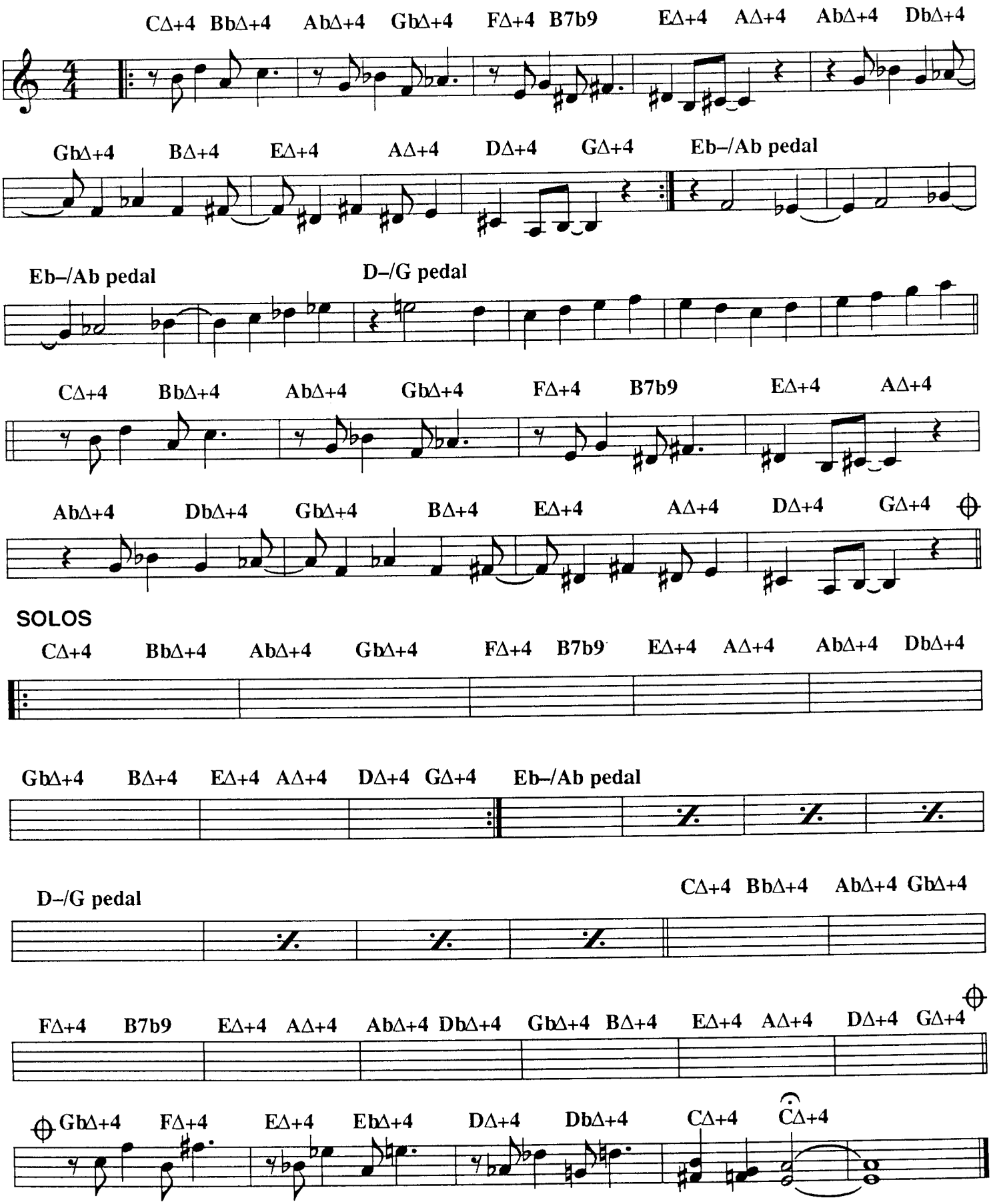
Walkin' Up

Music by Bill Evans

PLAY 4 CHORUSES ♩= 108



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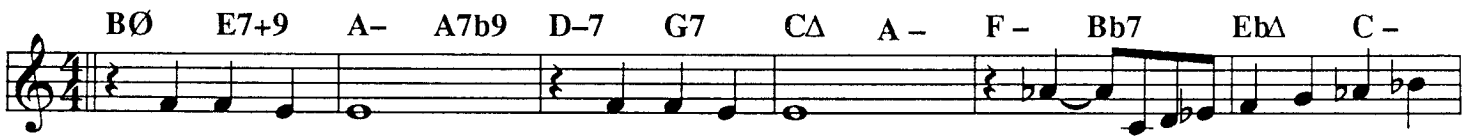
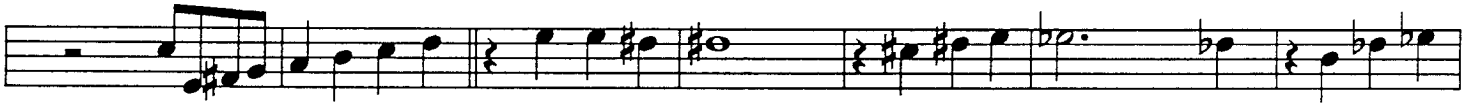
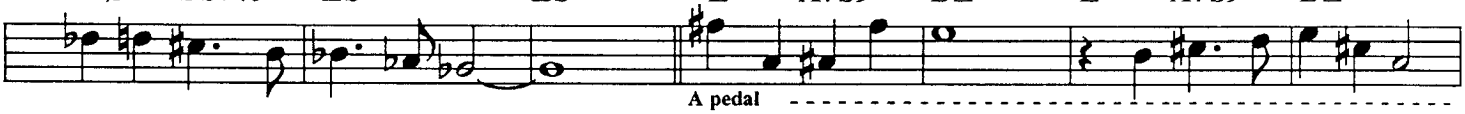
TURN OUT THE STARS

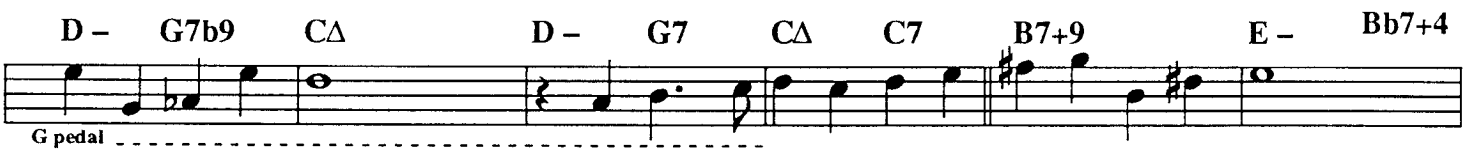
PLAY 3 CHORUSES ♩= 96

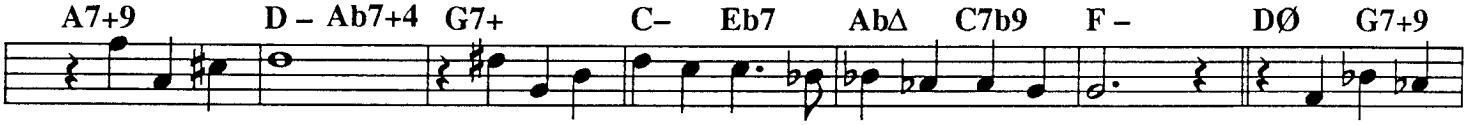
Music by Bill Evans











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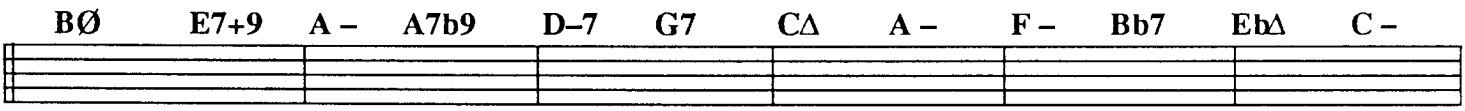

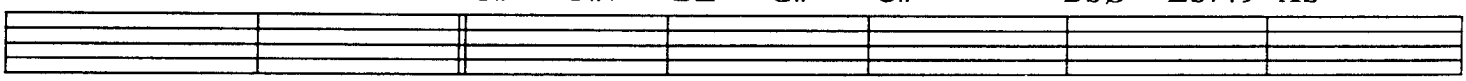

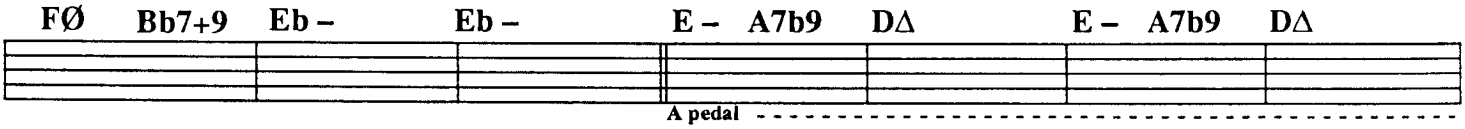

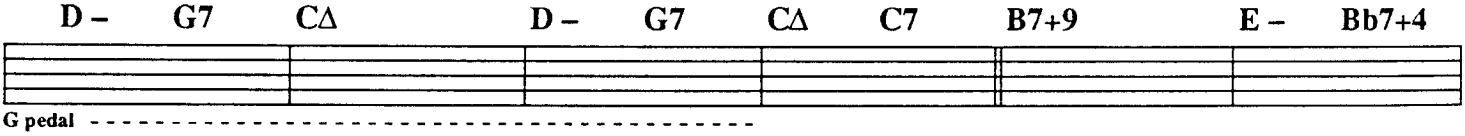

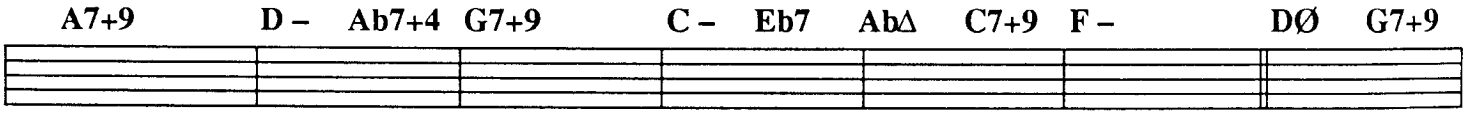

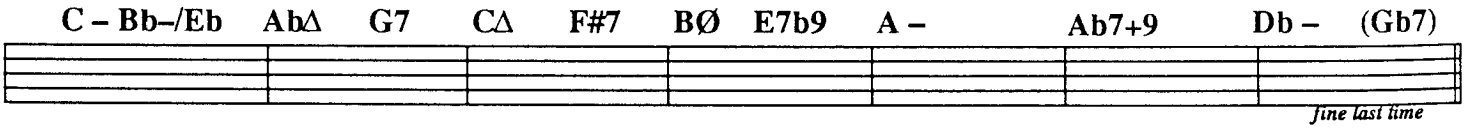

fine last time

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